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National Indian Health Board NATIONAL TRIBAL COVID-19 RESPONSE

910 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE | Washington, D.C. 20003 | 202-507-4070 | www.nihb.org

The National Indian Health Board is committed to ensuring that the Tribes remain informed on COVID-19 and have the resources and assistance needed to respond to the pandemic. This newsletter will contain the latest resources, announcements and information on scheduled calls and webinars.

To view all of our resources, please be sure to visit our COVID-19 Tribal Resource Center at www.nihb.org/covid-19.

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

www.nihb.org/covid-19

NIHB COVID-19 Tribal Resource Center

- Funding Opportunities and Technical Assistance [Resources](#)
- Administration and Agency [Response](#)
- Community Health [Tools](#)
- Advocacy [Tools](#)
- [List](#) of Member and Partner Organizations to find regionally-specific resources
- Upcoming Calls Webinars and [Events](#)

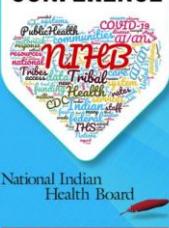
NIHB to Testify Before House Appropriations Subcommittee Today

The [US House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies](#) will hold a hearing entitled, Indian Country COVID-19 Response Update on Wednesday, September 30, 2020. [National Indian Health Board](#) (NIHB) Chief Operating Officer and Policy Center Director Carolyn Angus-Hornbuckle will testify on behalf of NIHB. Ms. Angus-Hornbuckle will be joined on the witness panel by Mr. Kevin J. Allis,

NIHB 2020 National Tribal Health Conference

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**2020
NATIONAL
TRIBAL
HEALTH
CONFERENCE**



National Indian
Health Board
► VIRTUAL
OCTOBER 13-16

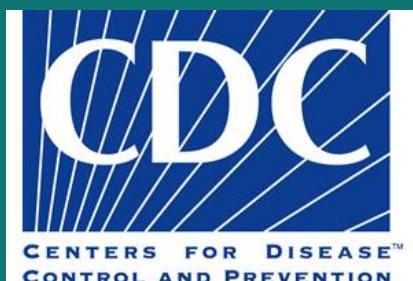
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**Deadline Approaching:
CDC Requests
Nominations for Tribal
Advisory Committee**



Tomorrow, October 1, 2020 is the deadline for nominations to the [Tribal Advisory Committee](#) (TAC) for the Centers Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and

CEO of the [National Congress of American Indians](#) and Ms. Francys Crevier, CEO of the [National Council of Urban Indian Health](#).

[Watch the Hearing at
1:00 PM Eastern on 9/30/20](#)

[Read NIHB's Written Testimony](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Regional Tribal Consultation Calls on COVID-19 Vaccines Continue Thursday

On September 24, [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#)

(HHS) Deputy Secretary Hargan sent a [Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#) (DTLL) announcing the initiation of Tribal Consultation to seek input from Tribal Leaders on COVID-19 vaccination planning for Indian Country. This Tribal Consultation complements the state planning process that began last week with the publication of the CDC's [COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations](#).

Tribal Leaders will have several forums to discuss vaccination planning for distribution and allocation, including the following [regional](#) conference calls:

- October 1, 2020; 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET: HHS Region 9
 - Dial-In: (415) 527-5035;
Passcode: 199 650 2728

Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR). Representation from the following areas are needed: Bemidji area, California area, Great Plains area, Phoenix area, Tucson area, and Tribes At-Large. The Tribal leader delegates serve a two-year term on the [TAC](#).

Visit the [CDC TAC website](#) to see the current roster, TAC charter, eligibility, nomination guidance, and the [Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#) that was issued on August 7, 2020 announcing the vacancies.

FOLLOW NIHB ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



- October 1, 2020; 4:00 – 5:00 PM ET, HHS Region 10
- Dial-In: (415) 527-5035;
Passcode: 199 442 6687

Tribal leaders can provide input and recommendations in writing to consultation@hhs.gov. The deadline for comments is Friday, October 9, 2020

The [National Indian Health Board](#) (NIHB) held a webinar on Friday, September 25th with information on vaccine planning. The webinar included an overview of the federal government's COVID-19 vaccine planning activities and highlighted considerations for Tribal Leaders and health organizations serving Tribal and urban Indian communities making decisions on vaccine distribution.

[View the Webinar Recording](#)

View the Slide Presentations:
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Presentation](#)
[Vaccine Planning Webinar](#)
[Indian Health Service \(IHS\) Presentation Vaccine Planning Webinar](#)

Call & Webinar Announcements

COVID-19 National Briefing Call for State, Local and Tribal Officials, Wednesday, October 30

The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs will host a COVID-19 National Briefing Call for State, Local, and Tribal Officials on Wednesday, September 30, at 1:00 PM Eastern Time. The call will be joined by Senior Administration Officials – including Dr. Deborah Birx – for a comprehensive update on COVID-19 trends, Operation Warp Speed, testing support for States, Tribes, and localities, and the 2020-21 flu season.

Prior to the call, please review a letter from President Trump to the Nation's Governors outlining surged testing support to States. The Trump Administration is sending 100 million BinaxNOW rapid point-of-care tests across the country with each State receiving an allotment. Additional tests will be surged to nursing homes, HBCU's, and Tribes (via the IHS). Read the letter here: [**President Trump's Letter to America's Governors**](#). And read more here: [**President Trump Announces Distribution of 150M Rapid Coronavirus Tests**](#).

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

1:00 PM Eastern Time

[**Register for the Call**](#)

*Note: Call-in lines are limited. RSVP's will be allocated in the order they are received.
Please register only if you are able to join the call.*

Hidden Consequences: How the COVID-19 Pandemic is Impacting Children (Webinar Series), Wednesday, September 30

The [**Assistant Secretary for Preparedness \(ASPR\) TRACIE**](#) and ASPR's Pediatric Centers of Excellence are collaborating on a webinar series focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children. Topics will include impacts on child health and wellness, child emotional and social effects, the impact of COVID-19 on children with special healthcare needs, and how secondary/other disasters may affect children during the pandemic. The first webinar is focused on child health and wellness. Panelists will discuss resumption of routine care, missed immunizations and lead poisoning screening, sleep, and child neglect and abuse.

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM ET

[**Register here**](#)

Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center Contact Tracing Webinar, Thursday, October 1 or Friday, October 2

Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (AASTEC) is will be hosting a virtual contact tracing training over two 2-hour sessions this Thursday (10/1) and Friday (10/2). This program is designed to introduce and prepare individuals for contact tracing.

Thursday, October 1 and Friday, October 2

12:00 PM Eastern Time

[Register for the Webinar](#)



Indigenous Connectivity Summit (Virtual), October 5 - October 9, 2020

The Indigenous Connectivity Summit brings together community network managers and operators, Indigenous-owned Internet service providers, community members, researchers, policy makers and Indigenous leaders. We discuss ways to ensure Alaska Native, American Indian, Inuit, Native Hawaiian, First Nations and Métis communities have affordable, high-quality and sustainable Internet access, and talk about how it can support social and economic development.



The Summit provides practical, hands-on training to help Indigenous communities connect to the Internet to and creates opportunities to build relationships and share useful knowledge and experience.

October 5 – 9, 2020
[Register for the Summit](#)

Native American Finance Officers Association Virtual 2020 Fall Conference, October 5-9, 2020

The [Native American Finance Officers Association](#) is hosting it's fall conference as a virtual event. Preview the agenda [here](#).

October 5 - 9, 2020
[Register for the Conference](#)



National Indian Education Association Virtual Convention and Trade Show, October 7 - 9, 2020

For the first time, the **National Indian Education Association** (NIEA), in order to safely serve Native educators and students and deliver critical education information and resources to Native communities and partners, has transitioned the 51st Annual NIEA Convention to a virtual experience.

NIEA is humbled by its dedicated members and new supporters of NIEA during the difficult and unexpected times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges communities are facing, NIEA is inspired by the innovation and collaboration happening across Native communities in response to COVID-19 to address education challenges never faced before.

The 2020 NIEA Convention theme, “Achieving Educational Equity Through Classroom, School, and Community Transformation” recognizes that, through collective efforts, the educational experience can be transformed for Native students and create true equity in classrooms, school districts and communities.

The Virtual Convention and Trade Show will include innovative participatory workshops, research presentations, poster sessions, and keynote addresses by prominent educators and advocates.

October 7 - 9, 2020
[**Register for the Convention and Trade Show**](#)

Announcements

FEMA Opens \$600 Million Grant Process

The Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) will open applications on September 30, 2020 for two hazard mitigation grant programs totaling \$660 million.



FEMA

The two grant programs, the Flood Mitigation Assistance grant and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant, or BRIC, will provide funds to states, local communities, Tribes and territories for eligible mitigation activities. These programs allow for funding to be used on projects that will reduce future disaster losses and strengthen our nation's ability to build a culture of preparedness.

This will be the first time FEMA has offered the BRIC grant, which was made possible by the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, allowing for a stable funding source to fund mitigation projects annually.

"BRIC represents significant work and support from Congress, our partners across the country and our staff to form, and now finally implement, this grant," said FEMA Administrator Pete Gaynor. "We know that mitigation measures save lives and prevent disaster damages, but now we are taking an active step in ensuring we build our nation's infrastructure to withstand the hazards we face."

The new BRIC grant is for pre-disaster mitigation activities and replaces FEMA's existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation program. BRIC will offer \$500 million in grants to help support states, Tribes, territories and communities throughout the nation as they design and begin new infrastructure projects – projects that will reduce future disaster recovery costs and help save lives. The program will also provide incentives to local governments to adopt and enforce modern building codes.

FEMA is also opening the application period for the Flood Mitigation Assistance grants. There is \$160 million available in flood mitigation grants, with \$70 million of that amount set aside for **community flood mitigation projects**.

These grants are used for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings that are insured by the National Flood Insurance Program. Projects are selected based on the cost-effectiveness and eligibility of the proposal. FEMA has provided more than \$1.3 billion on more than 2,900 flood mitigation projects since these grants began in 1996.

Both grant applications will be open from Sept. 30 – Jan. 21, 2021. Eligible applicants must apply for funding using the new FEMA Grants Outcome

(FEMA GO). Applications received by FEMA after this deadline will not be considered for funding.

New Volume: How COVID-19 Exacerbates Educational Inequities Among Children

The **Society for Research in Child Development** (SRCD) recently published a new volume of *Statement of the Evidence* briefs examining the impact of systemic racism and potential exacerbating effects of COVID-19 on racial-ethnic minority and LGBTQ+ children and youth. American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children are already at risk for low levels of school achievement, now they are further threatened with school closures, limited access to broadband services and technology, inadequate access to nutritious food and dedicated space to study in the home. Low-quality education and health care for AI/AN youth worsens the negative impact of COVID-19. [Read more here.](#)

NIHB Tribal Infection Control Advisory Committee

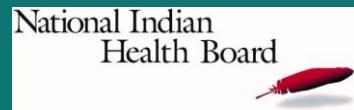
The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) is forming an advisory committee to help inform and guide our new Tribal Infection Control (TIC) project, formally titled *Project Firstline: Tribal Infection Prevent and Control Capacity Building Program*. The project is funded by the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) and the purpose of the project is to provide infection prevention and control (IPC) training and technical assistance to Tribal Health Officials and Tribal Health Systems. The project will include developing and implementing a training program for Tribal health professionals as well as developing a mentorship program between infection control professionals and Tribal health officials. The advisory committee will assist with reviewing and advising on program materials and provide advisory for developing and implementing the TIC projects. NIHB invites those interested in becoming a member of the advisory committee to please contact Carmen Sanders at csanders@nihb.org for more information and an application.



NIHB Leads Efforts on Joint Letter to Congress Opposing Policy Changes to Medicaid FMAP

Tribal Nations and organizations encouraged to send their own letter - template available!

On July 27, the **National Indian Health Board** (NIHB) sent a joint letter to Congress firmly opposing any policy that would undo decades of precedent in federal Medicaid policy towards



Tribal Nations by extending 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) to States for Medicaid services rendered by providers outside the Indian health system to American Indians/Alaska Natives. This policy would seek to stabilize state Medicaid programs at the direct expense of the Indian health system, and runs contrary to federal trust and treaty obligations.

NIHB was joined by Tribal Nations, **National Congress of American Indians**, **National Council of Urban Indian Health**, and multiple regional Tribal organizations in this important advocacy. NIHB encourages all Tribal Nations and organizations to join us in showing that Indian Country is uniformly opposed to this provision by sending similar letters. Please find this **template letter** on NIHB's Tribal COVID-19 Resource Center. Read the joint letter [here](#).

HRSA Requests Nominations for Tribal Advisory Council

The **Health Resources and Services Administration** (HRSA) plans to create a Tribal Advisory Council and seeks nominations for membership from the Indian Health Service geographic areas of Alaska, Albuquerque, Billings, Navajo, Phoenix, and Tucson. Nominations for members must be received on or before September 30, 2020.

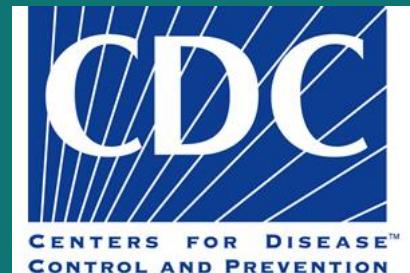


[View the Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#)
[View the Federal Register Notice](#)

For questions, please contact Dr. Elijah K. Martin, Jr., Tribal Health Affairs, HRSA Office of Health Equity at Emartin@hrsa.gov.

CDC Requests Nominations for Tribal Advisory Council

A [Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#) was issued on August 7, 2020 announcing vacancies for the Centers Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) for the following seats: Bemidji area, California area, Great Plains area, Phoenix area, Tucson area, and Tribes At-Large. The Tribal leader delegates serve a two-year terms on the TAC.



The current roster, TAC charter, eligibility and nomination guidance can be found on the CDC TAC website, [here](#). Deadline for nominations is October 1, 2020.

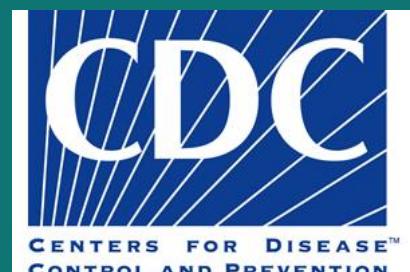
U.S. Department of Labor Announces Availability of \$40 Million to Address Rural Healthcare Workforce Shortages

Application due Friday, November 13, 2020 at 4:00 PM ET

On September 15, 2020, the U.S. Department of Labor announced the availability of \$40 million in funding for the Rural Healthcare Grant Program to address rural healthcare workforce shortages in communities across the country. American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribal governments and AI/AN program entities are eligible to apply. Read the full announcement [here](#) and apply [here](#).

Serious Adverse Health Events Associated with Methanol-based Hand Sanitizers

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) issued the following Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory on July 5, 2020. On June 19, 2020, the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) (FDA) advised consumers not to use any hand sanitizer manufactured by “Eskbiochem SA de CV” in Mexico, due to the potential presence of methanol, a “toxic alcohol”, as an active ingredient, which can cause blindness and/or death when absorbed through the skin or when swallowed. Since then, [FDA](#) has identified additional ABHSR products that contain methanol and is working with manufacturers and distributors on a voluntary recall of these products. [Read more](#).



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Visit the NIHB COVID-19 Tribal Resource Center at www.nihb.org/covid-19.
Reach the NIHB COVID-19 Response Team, contact CWheeler@nihb.org

For media inquiries, contact April Hale at AHale@nihb.org

